

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A voting system for recording a voter's selection of one candidate from a slate of one or more candidates, comprising

a hand-markable physical ballot for receiving ~~adapted to receive~~ at least one voter-detectable mark indicating the voter's selection of a candidate from the slate of one or more candidates, said hand-markable physical ballot ~~said ballot~~ providing the names of and an associated marking space for each candidate in said slate of candidates;

a ballot marking terminal including a display screen for displaying to the voter one or more menus presenting a choice of candidates from said slate of candidates, and for receiving an input from the voter indicating the selection of a candidate from said slate of candidates, said ballot marking terminal receiving said hand-markable physical ballot and in response to said voter input, marking the marking space corresponding to said selected candidate ~~with providing a voter-detectable mark in the marking space corresponding to said selected candidate~~ and returning said hand-markable physical ballot to the voter; and

a ballot scanning device for receiving said ballot and recording said voter-detectable mark in said marking space associated with said selected candidate as a vote cast for said selected candidate.

2. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 1 wherein said hand-markable physical ballot is a paper ballot.

3. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 2 wherein said ballot marking terminal includes a print head and said voter-detectable mark is a visually-detectable mark.

4. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 1 wherein said menus presented to the voter are coordinated visual and aural menus.

5. (Currently Amended) In a voting system for recording a voter's selection of one candidate from a slate of one or more candidates on a hand-markable physical ~~paper~~ ballot for receiving ~~adapted to receive~~ one or more voter-detectable marks indicating a voter's selection of a candidate from a slate of one or more candidates, the hand-markable physical ballot providing the names of and an associated marking space for each candidate in said slate of candidates, the hand-markable physical ballot being readable by a ballot scanning device receiving the hand-markable physical ballot and recording the voter-detectable mark in the marking space associated with the selected candidate as a vote cast for the selected candidate, the improvement comprising:

a ballot marking terminal including a display screen for displaying ~~providing~~ to the voter one or more menus presenting a choice of candidates from the slate of candidates, and for receiving an input from the voter indicating the selection of a candidate from said slate of candidates, said ballot-marking terminal receiving the ballot and in response to said voter input to said ballot-marking ~~voting~~ terminal, marking ~~providing~~ a voter-detectable mark in the marking space corresponding to said selected candidate.

6. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 5 wherein said hand-markable physical ballot is a paper ballot.

7. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 6 wherein said ballot marking terminal includes a print head and said voter-detectable mark is a visually-detectable mark.

8. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 5 wherein said menus presented to the voter are coordinated visual and aural menus.

9. (Currently Amended) A ballot marking terminal for use in conjunction with a hand-markable physical ballot for receiving ~~adapted to receive~~ at least one voter-detectable mark indicating a voter's selection of a candidate from a slate of one or more candidates, the hand-markable physical ballot providing the names of and an associated marking space for each candidate in the slate of candidates, the ballot marking terminal comprising:

a transport mechanism for receiving the hand-markable physical ballot;

a display screen ~~user interface~~ providing to the voter one or more menus presenting a choice of candidates from the slate of candidates, and for receiving an input from the voter indicating the voter's selection of a candidate from the slate of candidates; and

a marking head responsive to the voter input for providing a voter-detectable mark in the marking space corresponding to the selected candidate.

10. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 9 wherein said hand-markable physical ballot is a paper ballot.

11. (Currently Amended) The ballot marking terminal ~~A voting system~~ as defined in claim 9 wherein said menus presented to the voter are coordinated visual and aural menus.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for recording a voter's selection of one candidate from a slate of one or more candidates, comprising the steps of:

providing a hand-markable physical ballot for receiving ~~adapted to receive~~ at least one voter-detectable mark indicating the voter's selection of a candidate from the slate of one or

more candidates, the hand-markable physical ballot providing the names of and an associated marking space for each candidate in the slate of candidates;

providing to the voter by means of a ballot marking terminal including a display screen for displaying to the voter one or more menus presenting a choice of candidates from the slate of candidates, and receiving an input from the voter indicating the selection of a candidate from the slate of candidates;

the ballot marking terminal in response to the voter input marking a voter-detectable mark in the marking space corresponding to the selected candidate; and

receiving the hand-markable physical ballot in a ballot scanning device and recording the voter-detectable mark in the marking space associated with the selected candidate as a vote cast for the selected candidate.

13. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 12 wherein said hand-markable physical ballot is a paper ballot.

14. (Original) The method defined in claim 13 wherein said ballot marking terminal includes a print head, and said voter-detectable mark is a visually-detectable mark.

15. (Currently Amended) A ballot marking terminal for use in conjunction with at least first and second different hand-markable physical ballots, said first hand-markable ballot containing a first ballot format code and providing a first slate of one or more candidates for selection, said second hand-markable ballot containing a second ballot format code and providing a second slate of one or more candidates for selection different from said first slate of candidates, each of said hand-markable physical ballots receives ~~being adapted to receive~~ at least one voter-detectable mark indicating a voter's selection of a candidate from the respective slate of candidates, said terminal comprising:

a ballot transport mechanism for ~~adapted to~~ receiving one of said hand-markable physical ballots from the voter;

a memory device for storing said first and second hand-markable physical ballot format data in association with said first and second ballot format codes, respectively;

a ballot interface device for reading the format codes on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said transport mechanism;

a display screen user interface responsive to the format code read by said ballot interface device and the associated format data in said memory device for providing to the voter one or more menus presenting a choice of candidates from the slate of candidates provided on the received ballot;

the display screen user interface receiving an input from the voter indicating the voter's selection of a candidate from the slate of candidates;

a marking device responsive to said voter input and said associated format data from said memory device for marking said received ballot to indicate the candidate selected by the voter; and

said ballot transport mechanism returns ~~being further adapted to return~~ the marked ballot to the voter.

16. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 wherein said menus provided to the voter are coordinated visual and aural menus.

17. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots are paper ballots, and said format codes comprise printing on said hand-markable physical ballots.

18. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 17 wherein said ballot interface device comprises an optical scanner.
19. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 wherein said user interface provides both visual and aural menus to the voter.
20. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 or 19 wherein said user interface comprises a touch screen display.
21. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claims 15 or 19 wherein said user interface includes voter-actuable UP, DOWN, and SELECT key switches for receiving said voter input from said menu.
22. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claims 15 or 19 wherein said user interface includes voter-actuable UP, DOWN, FORWARD, BACK and SELECT key switches for receiving said voter input from said menu.
23. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claims 15 or 19 wherein said user interface includes an ADA input providing a uni-directional closed-loop scrolling function through said menu and a select function for receiving a voter selection from said menu.
24. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots each include a marking space in association with each of said candidates, and said ballot interface device comprises a scanner which scans said marking spaces on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, and said user interface is inhibited from receiving a voter input in the event of one or more of said marking spaces being marked.
25. (Currently Amended) The A ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots each include a marking space in association with each of said

candidates, and said ballot interface device comprises a scanner which scans said marking spaces on said ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, said marking device being further responsive to the location of said marking spaces as sensed by said ballot interface device for marking said received ballot.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots each include a marking space in association with each of said candidates, and said ballot interface device comprises a scanner which scans said marking spaces on said ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, said ballot marking terminal includes an analysis circuit for analyzing the output of said scanner for physical irregularities in said received ballot, and said ballot transport mechanism rejects ~~is further adapted to reject~~ a hand-markable physical ballot having physical irregularities in response to a control effect from said analysis circuit.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 15 wherein said memory device is a flash card.

28. (Currently Amended) A voting system for recording a voter's selection of one candidate from a slate of one or more candidates, comprising:

a first hand-markable physical ballot containing a first format code and providing a first slate of one or more candidates;

a second hand-markable physical ballot containing a second format code and providing a second slate of one or more candidates different from said first slate of candidates;

each of said hand-markable physical ballots receives ~~being adapted to receive~~ at least one voter-detectable mark indicating a voter's selection of a candidate from the respective slate of candidates;

a ballot marking terminal comprising a ballot transport mechanism for adapted to receiving one of said hand-markable physical ballots from the voter;

a memory device within said ballot marking terminal for storing first and second sets of ballot format data in association with said first and second ballot format codes, respectively;

a ballot interface device within said ballot marking terminal for reading the format codes on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism;

a user interface within said ballot marking terminal responsive to the format code read by said ballot interface device and the associated format data in said memory device for providing to the voter one or more menus presenting a choice of said candidates from the slate of candidates provided on the received ballot;

said user interface receiving an input from the voter indicating the voter's selection of a candidate from the slate of candidates;

a marking device within said ballot marking terminal responsive to said voter input and said associated set of format data from said memory device for marking said received ballot to indicate the candidate selected by the voter;

said ballot transport mechanism returns ~~being further adapted to return~~ the marked ballot to the voter; and

a ballot scanning device for receiving said selected ballot and recording said voter-detectable mark in the marking space associated with the selected candidate as a vote for the selected candidate.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ voting system as defined in claim 28 wherein said menus provided to the voter are coordinated visual and aural menus.

30. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 28 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots are paper ballots, and said format codes comprise printing on said hand-markable physical ballots.

31. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 30 wherein said ballot interface device comprises an optical scanner.

32. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 28 wherein said user interface provides both visual and aural menus to the voter.

33. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 28 or 32 wherein said user interface comprises a touch screen display.

34. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claims 28 or 32 wherein said user interface includes voter-actuable UP, DOWN, and SELECT key switches for receiving said voter input from said menu.

35. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claims 28 or 32 wherein said user interface includes voter-actuable UP, DOWN, FORWARD, BACK and SELECT key switches for receiving said voter input from said menu.

36. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claims 28 or 32 wherein said user interface includes an ADA input providing a uni-directional closed-loop scrolling function through said menu and a select function for receiving a voter selection from said menu.

37. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 28 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots each include a marking space in association with each of said candidates, and said ballot interface device comprises a scanner which scans said marking spaces on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, and said user

interface is inhibited from receiving a voter input in the event of one or more of said marking spaces being marked.

38. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 28 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots each include a marking space in association with each of said candidates, and said ballot interface device comprises a scanner which scans said marking spaces on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, said marking device being further responsive to the location of said marking spaces as sensed by said ballot interface device for marking said received ballot.

39. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 28 wherein said hand-markable physical ballots each include a marking space in association with each of said candidates, and said ballot interface device comprises a scanner which scans said marking spaces on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, said ballot marking terminal includes an analysis circuit for analyzing the output of said scanner for physical irregularities in said received ballot, and said ballot transport mechanism rejects is ~~further adapted to reject~~ a ballot having physical irregularities in response to a control effect from said analysis circuit.

40. (Currently Amended) The A voting system as defined in claim 28 wherein said memory device is a flash card.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of recording a voter's selection of one candidate from a slate of one or more candidates, comprising the steps of:

providing a first hand-markable physical ballot containing a first format code and
providing a first slate of one or more candidates;

providing a second hand-markable physical ballot containing a second format code and providing a second slate of one or more candidates different from said first slate of candidates;

each of said hand-markable physical ballots receives ~~being adapted to receive~~ at least one voter-detectable mark indicating a voter's selection of a candidate from the respective slate of candidates; providing a ballot marking terminal including a ballot transport mechanism receiving one of said hand-markable physical ballots from the voter;

storing within said ballot marking terminal first and second sets of ballot format data in association with said first and second ballot format codes, respectively;

reading the format codes on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism;

providing to the voter a user interface within said ballot marking terminal responsive to the format code read by said ballot interface device and the associated format data in said memory device one or more menus presenting a choice of said candidates from the slate of candidates provided on the received hand-markable physical ballot; receiving an input from the voter indicating the voter's selection of a candidate from the slate of candidates;

marking said received hand-markable physical ballot responsive to said voter input and said associated set of format data from said memory device to indicate the candidate selected by the voter;

returning the marked ballot to the voter; and scanning said selected hand-markable physical ballot and recording said voter-detectable mark in the marking space associated with the selected candidate as a vote for the selected candidate.

42. (Currently Amended) The A method of voting as defined in claim 41 including the additional step of providing are coordinated visual and aural menus to the voter.

43. (Currently Amended) The A method of voting as defined in claim 41 including the additional step of providing paper ballots, and printing said format codes on said ballots.

44. (Currently Amended) The A method of voting as defined in claim 43 wherein said ballot format codes are read by optical scanning.

45. (Currently Amended) The A method of voting as defined in claim 41 including the additional steps of providing a marking space on said hand-markable physical ballots in association with each of said candidates, scanning said marking spaces on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, and inhibiting voter input in the event one or more of said marking spaces is marked.

46. (Currently Amended) The A method of voting as defined in claim 41 including the additional steps of providing a marking space on said hand-markable physical ballots in association with each of said candidates, scanning said marking spaces on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, and marking said received hand-markable physical ballot responsive to the location of said marking spaces as sensed by said scanning.

47. (Currently Amended) The A method of voting as defined in claim 41 including the additional steps of providing a marking space on said hand-markable physical ballots in association with each of said candidates, and scanning said marking spaces on said hand-markable physical ballot received by said ballot transport mechanism, analyzing the output of said scanner for physical irregularities in said received hand-markable physical ballot, and rejecting a hand-markable physical ballot having physical irregularities in response to said analysis.

48. (Currently Amended) The A method of voting as defined in claim 41 including the additional steps of storing said ballot format data in a flash card.

49. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 1 wherein said display screen comprises a touch screen display.

50. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 1 wherein said ballot marking terminal includes a memory device for storing the physical location of each said associated marking space on said hand-markable physical ballot, and wherein said ballot marking terminal further responds to the locations stored on said memory device in marking each said marking space.

51. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 50 wherein said memory device is removable from said ballot marking terminal.

52. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 5 wherein said display screen comprises a touch screen display.

53. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 5 wherein said ballot marking terminal includes a memory device for storing the physical location of each said associated marking space on said hand-markable physical ballot, and wherein said ballot marking terminal further responds to the locations stored on said memory device in marking each said marking space.

54. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 53 wherein said memory device is removable from said ballot marking terminal.

55. (New) The ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 9 wherein said display screen comprises a touch screen display.

56. (New) The ballot marking terminal as defined in claim 9 wherein said ballot marking terminal includes a memory device for storing the physical location of each said marking space on said hand-markable physical ballot, and wherein said ballot marking terminal further responds to the locations stored on said memory device in marking each said marking space.

57. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 56 wherein said memory device is removable from said ballot marking terminal.

58. (New) The method as defined in claim 12 wherein said display screen comprises a touch screen display.

59. (New) The method as defined in claim 12 further including the steps of storing on a memory device within said ballot marking terminal the location of each said marking space, and the ballot marking terminal further responding to said location stored on said memory device when marking said marking space.

60. (New) The voting system as defined in claim 59 wherein said memory device is removable from said ballot marking terminal.